

## MEMPHIS APPEAL.

SATURDAY, : : DEC. 11, 1896

## THE PRESIDENT AND MEXICO.

As our next neighbor, it has always

been desirable that our relations with

Mexico should be amicable. Now

railroads have fettered the two coun-

tries in close connection, it is abso-

lutely necessary that our political

relations should conform to the new

condition of things. The influence

that is bringing the two peoples into

closer intimacy, is already producing

so decided an effect that a project for

a treaty with Mexico arranged a short

time ago, and not yet acted upon by

our Congress, is found insufficient for

its purposes, and the President in his

message to Congress states that a new

treaty will be drawn up, broader in

its basis and more satisfactory in its

details than the present one. It is es-

sential for the peace and welfare of

the two countries, that any cause of

dispute which may become of

serious moment in the future, should

be removed. A claim made by the

Mexican Government in the case of

the Cutting cases, is not safe from

future contingency. The claim is that

Mexico has the right when a foreigner,

anywhere, commits an offense against

a Mexican citizen, to arrest, try, and

punish such foreign person should be

found at any time within the

bounds of Mexican authority. It was

in conformity with this claim that the

American citizen Cutting was arrested,

tried, and condemned in Mexico, for

an act which, although against Mexi-

can law, was performed upon Ameri-

can soil. Such a claim no American

citizen would submit to, and President

Cleveland at once caused Mexico to

know that it was altogether inadmis-

sible, although it was made by the

government and required by the law

of Mexico. If Mexico may exercise

such a right, other countries

may claim the same right. As this

country is largely settled by immi-

grants from abroad, and as the pos-

sition of many of them may induce

acts here which are made illegal in

their old homes, it is easy to see that

American citizens, home born or nat-

uralized, could not travel abroad

without the possibility of being called

upon to answer charges where, often,

there was no consciousness of having

broken any foreign enactment. To

admit the Mexican claim is impossi-

ble, and so the President has fully and

plainly given Mexico to understand.

In his message to Congress he declares

that to admit such a pretension would

bring serious results, and be an in-

vasion of the jurisdiction of our govern-

ment, as well as dangerous to our

citizens when abroad. "Therefore," says

the President with characteristic de-

cision and firmness, "I denied it."

That denial the country

witnesses. Our citizens when in a

foreign land must obey the laws

there or suffer the penalty, but an

American, acting freely in his own

land, must not be called into question

in another land for what is done in

this. "In the case of Mexico," the

message argues, "there are reasons

especially strong for perfect harmony

in the mutual exercise of jurisdiction,"

and the President expresses the hope

that Mexico will remove reasons for

complaint, that, if continued, must, in

the nature of things, in the long run

lead to painful results, involving, per-

haps, war itself. The vigilance and

persistence of Mr. Cleveland will not

leave this unpleasant snare without

needing it, if within the bounds of

possibility.

## AN UNJUST TAX.

The oleomargarine law was a piece

of legislation more worthy of the

middle ages than of the nineteenth

century. If oleomargarine may be taxed

to keep up the price of butter, why

may not beer be taxed to keep up

the price of whisky, and sausage taxed

to keep up the price of beefsteak?

To tax one of the products that an-

other may make for profit is neither

wise, just nor expedient. It has been

said that oleomargarine is unfit for

food. The clearest expert testimony

and the examination of oleomargar-

ine factories that can be made as

day, prove the statement to be false.

No objection is made to the whole-

somefulness of lard, and oleomargarine

can at least rival that article in purity

and wholesomeness. But oleomargar-

ine has been sold for butter. It

has, but the cheat was not in the

oleomargarine, but was performed by

dishonest sellers, and the right course

is to legislate as to punish the dis-

honesty of the cheats, not to tax an

article which is apparently as good as

butter, since it can be sold for it, the

purchaser not distinguishing the dif-

ference. The manufacturer of oleom-

argarine is taxed, the seller of it is

taxed and the article itself is taxed,

the latter 2 cents, the former 2 p. u. u.

heavy license fines. A Natcha trad-

esman writes that he cannot carry a

stock of oleomargarine in his store, for

the United States tax would be \$100,

State tax \$50 and the city tax \$25, or

\$175 penalty, not for selling oleom-

argarine for butter, but because some-

body might possibly sell it for butter.

The entire business is a mockery

taxed to keep up a monopoly price for

butter, for they declare that to stop

the manufacture of oleomargarine is

to reduce the price of butter from \$2

to \$14 a head. The tax upon the article

unfair and harshly discriminative as

the tax is, the manufacturers submit

to, but against the extortionate license

there is universal complaint, and ef-

forts are making to induce Congress

to repeal it. We are certainly not

to arrange pass when an American

citizen cannot sell oleomargarine, if he

chooses, without being made to pay a

tax in favor of butter. This is cur-

ing the protection doctrine pretty far,

but by thus "running it into the

ground" the people may at length be

made aware what a snake they are

dangling in their bosom.

## THE TRADES CONFERENCE.

## RESOLUTIONS URGING STRONG POLITICAL ACTION.

As a Means of Defeating the Ne-

farious Work of the Police

Powers.

COLUMBUS, O., December 10.—The

morning session of the Trades Union

Conference was unproductive of re-

sults, and owing to the slowness of

procedure it was decided to hold a

night session. Letters regarding the

Knights of Labor were read from New

York, Philadelphia and Syracuse, but

their contents were not given to the

press. The discussion continued as to

the relations of the various trades re-

presented with the Knights of Labor,

but the compilation of statistics in

formation regarding the growth and

membership of trades unions was not

completed. The Conference Commit-

tee which met the Knights of Labor

last night submitted a report and were

concluded, Mr. Daly, of the shoe lasters,

being added. The committee was in

formation regarding the growth and

membership of trades unions was not

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